

anything to worry about. His doctor thought it was cancer.

The doctor was right.

It was neurotropic melanoma, a very rare—and very serious—type of skin cancer. Even after the little black spot was successfully removed six years ago, the cancer remained. And grew.

Last October, doctors at Barnes-Jewish Hospital began chemotherapy. They used a three-drug cocktail that includes Avastin, one of a new generation of anti-cancer drugs. It works by blocking the formation of new blood vessels that feed and nourish tumors. Until just a few years ago, that kind of treatment was the stuff of science fiction.

For patients battling advanced cancer like Mr. Callahan, Avastin represents something as important as food or water: It is time in a vial.

This is what it cost: \$13,686 per treatment. Mr. Callahan has received six so far. Total price: \$82,116.

What's it worth? That's a much more difficult question.

About 10 miles up Illinois Route 13 east of Carbondale, Ill.—just above Crab Orchard Lake—lies a little town called Carterville. Mr. Callahan lives there with his wife, Stacy, and two daughters. Alexa, 18, is a student at the University of Illinois. Carty, 13, is in eighth grade.

You can buy a three-bedroom house in Carterville for about what Mr. Callahan's six infusions of Avastin cost. For about \$100,000—the price of a year's treatment—you can get a dassic bungalow with a screened-in front porch, a long, shaded driveway and a two-bedroom cottage out back.

The Callahans both have good jobs and health insurance. Stacy works for a credit union. Dan is the head baseball coach at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Their insurance paid for minor surgery to remove the little black spot from Mr. Callahan's lip. It paid for more extensive surgery in April, when doctors removed the right side of his jaw trying to stop the cancer's spread.

And it paid for yet another operation in September, when infection forced doctors to remove the prosthetic device they had implanted to replace his missing jaw.

But Mr. Callahan's insurance won't pay for Avastin.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Avastin in 2004 to treat advanced colon cancer. Since then, it has been cleared for breast and lung cancers. Doctors are free to prescribe it for other forms of cancer. It is being tried on 30 other cancers, including melanoma, but those uses technically are experimental.

Because many experimental treatments don't pan out, insurance companies in Illinois and most other states do not have to cover them. The major health care bills pending in Congress would not change that. For the first time, they allow generic versions of so-called biologic drugs like Avastin. But only after 12 years on the market, twice as long as other drugs.

For thousands of Americans, including the Callahans, that means many newer cancer drugs are out of reach. "When they told me the insurance wouldn't cover it, I said well just pay for it ourselves," Mrs. Callahan recalled last week. "Then they told me how much it cost."

The Callahans scraped together about \$27,000 from friends and family members—enough to cover the cost of two treatments. They got a grant from Washington University to pay for four more. They are appealing the insurance company denial, so far without success. The grant expires at the end of December. After that?

Mrs. Callahan paused. "We don't know what we'll do."

Despite the high prices and higher hopes, Avastin has been shown to extend cancer patients' lives by only a few months.

Many patients and oncologists say it improves quality of life and shrinks tumors—or at least prevents them from growing.

Mr. Callahan's doctor said it has slowed the progression of his tumor.

That is no small achievement for patients with advanced cancer. But stopping the progression of cancer is not the same as curing it. A study published in January followed 53 melanoma patients who received Avastin. After 18 months, 13 were alive.

The company that makes Avastin, Genentech, spent about \$2.25 billion to develop it. It spends another \$1 billion a year testing it on new cancers. Avastin has been a blockbuster success. It had \$2.7 billion in sales in the United States last year and more than \$3.5 billion worldwide.

Genentech says Avastin's price reflects its value. Another cancer drug, Erbitus, costs even more, and it hasn't been shown to extend life at all. In March, Swiss pharmaceutical giant Roche agreed to buy Genentech for \$46.8 billion. Avastin is a big reason the company was sold for so much money.

Not everyone agrees that Avastin is worth the price. Experts in Britain recommended against covering it. A drug that costs as much as a house and extends life for just a few months isn't worth the money, they said.

Some people go to pieces when they find out they've got cancer. Mr. Callahan went to work.

He has coached the Salukis for 14 years. "I try to carry on like I'm going to be here next week and next month," he said. "I think about coaching in 2010, about going to my daughters' college graduations and their weddings."

His 2009 team finished with 24 wins and 28 losses. Coach Callahan was too sick to travel to away games. But he was in the dugout each time the Salukis took the field in Carbondale.

From the beginning, the Callahans have made it a point not to ask doctors about his prognosis. "We don't want to know it, and we don't want our kids to know it," Mrs. Callahan said. "We just wanted to live our lives as normally as possible, with no time line."

Coach Callahan thinks it is inherently unfair that patients can be denied treatment simply because of a drug's high price. It's like giving one team an extra at-bat.

But the game is not over. Even with two outs in the ninth inning, even with two strikes against you, there's hope. And a question: Who sets the price of victory?

ON THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF LIBRARIAN GEORGE KLINE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life's work of George Kline, a librarian in our Federal Depository Library Program. Mr. Kline, with long and distinguished service in providing U.S. Government information to the citizens of the 9th District of Ohio has retired after providing U.S. Government information to the citizens since he started as government documents librarian in 1971.

In 1981 he became coordinator for the library's federal depository collection, which is

one of the more than 1200 Congressionally designated Federal Depository Libraries nationwide, and one of the four depository libraries serving our region. Mr. Kline has been an active and dedicated promoter of the use of government information, and has served with distinction on numerous committees and as president of the Government Documents Round Table of Ohio, which recently honored him with its "Clyde" award for achievement and service.

Daniel Webster said, "Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests, and see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered." In his nearly forty year career in service to our nation's government as he carefully kept record of our documents and made them available to all, George Kline has upheld this ideal.

We wish Mr. Kline a retirement much deserved, traveling this new road of his life's journey with those for whom he cares and doing that which he enjoys.

HONORING ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL FOR HAVING BEEN DESIGNATED AS A "BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE" BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of St. James Episcopal Day School, located in the City of Baton Rouge in Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District. It gives me great pleasure to announce that St. James Episcopal Day School has been designated as a "Blue Ribbon School of Excellence" by the United States Department of Education.

The administration, faculty, staff, students, and parents of St. James Episcopal Day School have successfully demonstrated academic excellence in standardized test scores, curriculum, technology, instructional methods, professional development, and school leadership.

St. James Episcopal Day School is a Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth grade elementary school that was founded in 1948. At St. James, students are challenged to reach their full potential; to be active in faith; to be responsible for their learning; and to be accountable for their actions, thus preparing these students to be leaders in facing the demands of their future. With this honor, I can only hope that the school's next sixty years will be even more successful than its first.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOPKINS COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Hopkins County Memorial Hospital, which just celebrated its 60th

Anniversary on September 3, 2009. Hopkins County Memorial Hospital holds a rich history of service and dedication to the citizens of Hopkins County, providing excellence in medical care through its state-of-the-art technology and professionally trained, capable staff.

Original proposals for a hospital bond date back to the 1920's, but it wasn't until 1945 that public sentiment supported community members' proposal. Voters approved funds for a county hospital by a 3-1 majority, and plans for an accessible, competitive hospital were underway. With federal funding approved by 1948, the job was awarded to W.R. McKinney and Sons of Greenville, Texas, and construction began November 1, 1948. By June of the next year, Hopkins County Memorial Hospital was stocked with equipment that would make it one of the most modern in the region—a modern operating table, Heidbrink gas machines for anesthesia, a battery-operated emergency light for backup power during surgery, as well as a staff of about 30 skilled professionals. The hospital held its open house on September 4, and opened the next day. The hospital's most recent renovation includes a new emergency department, lobby, and conversion of all rooms to private rooms.

In January of 2009, the Advanced Heart Care at Memorial cardiac catheterization lab opened. The latest renovations include 27,959 new square feet, 39,098 renovated square feet, a new emergency department, a new front lobby and front desk area, a new and expanded Johnnie Masters Gift Shop, and conversion of all rooms into private rooms.

Hopkins County Memorial Hospital is a testament to the community's ability to band together in pursuit of the common good. Without the collaboration of thought, energy, and hard work by so many people, Hopkins County Memorial Hospital would not have become the success it is today. Madam Speaker, I ask those present today to join me in celebrating Hopkins County Memorial Hospital in its service and success over the past 60 years, and in wishing it many blessings in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF WARSAW,
MISSOURI

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to acknowledge Warsaw, Missouri, and the efforts of the Parks and Recreation Department to turn this beautiful city into Missouri's most bike-friendly community. Already a destination city for Americans seeking to enjoy Missouri's two largest lakes, Warsaw is working to become a model city for healthy living.

Under the leadership of City Administrator Randy Pogue and Parks and Recreation Director Mac Vorce, Warsaw plans to build a network of 15 to 20 miles of trails that radiate from the city center like the spokes of a wheel. These trails will connect the major area attractions and allow the residents of Warsaw to travel by bicycle to school and work. By building this impressive network of trails, Warsaw is creating a culture of healthy living. Pogue and Vorce hope that these trails will inspire

Missourians to get out of the house, put down the television remote, and enjoy the breathtaking beauty of the Fourth District of Missouri.

What began as a dream eight years ago is now close to becoming a reality due to the hard work of Pogue, Vorce, and their visionary team of engineers and staff members. After this House passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in February of this year, Warsaw applied for and received two grants to fund the renovation of Steamboat Landing and the surrounding area. This federal stimulus money, coupled with "handshake funds" from the Corps of Engineers, will allow Warsaw to finish this project and provide greater access to the beauty of this city.

Madam Speaker, Warsaw, which is situated in the heart of the Fourth District, is blessed with the God-given beauty of its natural surroundings. I trust that my fellow members of the House will join me in recognizing Warsaw as a model for healthy living and the promotion of the great outdoors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks as well as in accordance with Clause 9 of rule XXI, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks for my Congressional District as a part of H.R. 2996, the Interior and Environment Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman BILL POSEY (along with Senators Mel Martinez and BILL NELSON)

Project Funding Amount \$300,000

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: St. Johns River Water Management District

Address of Requesting Entity: St. Johns River Water Management District, 525 Community College Pkwy, Palm Bay, Florida.

Description of Request: This funding will be provided to the St. Johns River Water Management District for the East-Central Florida Integrated Water Resources Project to increase enhance water quality and increase the overall supply of water available for use as potable water.

Consistent with Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge this request (1) is not directed to any entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for entities unless the use of the funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE
FLOYD A. SHUMPERT

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Judge Floyd A. Shumpert, a public servant and fellow veteran, who passed away on July 17, 2009 at the age of 92. Judge Shumpert was born on March 21, 1917 to A.T. and Edna Shumpert in Kaufman County, Texas.

During World War II, Mr. Shumpert served his country in the 8th Infantry Division, 28th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion of the United States Army, where, in the Hurtgen Forest in Germany, he suffered a severe injury when he stepped on a land mine. This injury required the amputation of his lower leg. For his courage and dedication to the U.S. Army, Mr. Shumpert was awarded both the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

In 1945 Mr. Shumpert retired as a Major from the U.S. Army and returned to his home in Kaufman County, serving as County Clerk for four years. Upon earning his law degree from Baylor University, Judge Shumpert next served as County Judge for eight years before transitioning into private law practice in Kaufman County, and moving to Terrell in 1978. In 1983, Judge Shumpert became the second Judge to ever serve from Kaufman County as an Associate Justice on the Texas Court of Appeals from the Fifth Judicial District in Dallas, Texas. On August 30, 1983, Judge Shumpert was presented with The Key to the City of Terrell, and in 1999, both he and his wife were honored with the Community Service Award.

Along with his service to his country and community, Judge Shumpert served in his church as an Elder, both at Kaufman and Terrell Church of Christ.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Katharine Shumpert, their four children, and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He will be remembered fondly as a loving husband and devoted father, a patriot and public servant. Madam Speaker, I ask those here today to join me in honoring the life of this great American, Judge Floyd A. Shumpert.

ORDER ON GITMO AND YEMENI
DETAINEES

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, this Thursday the House Homeland Security Committee will hold an urgent hearing to investigate the admission of uninvited guests to the recent White House state dinner.

This security lapse certainly merits a full investigation, but it pales in comparison to the gross security lapse that the Obama Administration is committing in releasing scores of detainees from Guantanamo Bay to dangerously unstable countries—including Yemen, Afghanistan, and other al Qaeda strongholds.

Yet neither the Homeland Security Committee, nor any other committee, has seen fit